

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /129 W
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FOR OES/NET (LDC), NEA/EGY
PASS DOE FOR SARAH JACKSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EG
SUBJ: STATUS REPORT, U.S./EGYPT COOPERATIVE ENERGY ASSES-
- MENT

REF: (A) STATE 243053, (B) CAIRO 21426

1. JOINT US/EGYPTIAN REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ASSESSMENT REPORT
WAS CONCLUDED SEPTEMBER 25 WITH A JOINT MEETING OF THE
EGYPTIAN SUPREME COMMITTEE FOR ENERGY(CHAIRED BY DR. KAMEL
HAMID, CHAIRMAN, EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY) AND THE
US DELEGATION. ROBERT MCFARREN, DOE, REPORTED THAT AGREE-
MENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON INCORPORATION OF EGYPTIAN TECH-
NICAL COMMENTS AND THAT THE DRAFT REPORT COULD BE COMPLETED
AND MADE AVAILABLE IN LATE OCTOBER. ENG. MAHER ABAZA, FIRST
UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY, SAID
THAT THE SUPREME COMMITTEE WOULD REFER THE ASSESSMENT
REPORT TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AHMED SULTAN WITH ITS
RECOMMENDATION THAT THE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AS FINAL, NOTING
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THAT THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE
COMMENTS UPON THE OBSERVATIONS INCLUDED IN THE JOINT REPORT
AT A LATER TIME.

2. EACH GOVERNMENT WILL SEND THE REPORT SEPARATELY THROUGH
THEIR RESPECTIVE CHANNELS TO SENIOR OFFICIALS. NO JOINT
TRANSMITTAL TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS IS REQUIRED.

3. SULTAN IS ALSO EXPECTED TO WRITE SEPARATELY TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE ON THE VALUE OF THE ASSESSMENT AND EGYPT'S DESIRES TO CONTINUE WITH AN EXPANDED PROGRAM OF ENERGY COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. CONCURRENT IDENTICAL LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE MAY ALSO BE SENT; HOWEVER ABABA STILL NOT SURE THAT GOE PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOL WOULD PERMIT IT. HE FEELS ONLY MINFOREIGN AFFAIRS SHOULD WRITE DIRECTLY TO SECSTATE. HE WILL CHECK, HOWEVER.

4. THE ASSESSMENT REPORT HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVELY RECEIVED BY EGYPTIAN ENERGY, PLANNING AND RESOURCE OFFICIALS DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT POINTS OUT SOME SERIOUS INADEQUACIES AND UNCERTAINTIES WHICH EGYPT MUST ADDRESS. THESE OFFICIALS HAVE MADE MANY CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS, INDICATING SERIOUS REVIEW OF VOLUMINOUS DRAFT. HAMID SAID THAT GOE PREFERS THAT THE REPORT BE VIEWED AS A JOINT TECHNICAL REPORT AND NOT BE CONSTRUED AS OFFICIAL GOE POLICY DOCUMENT. A PREFACE STATEMENT IS BEING ADDED TO ACHIEVE THIS. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NECESSARILY LIMITED SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT AND NOTED THE NEED FOR MORE WORK AND REFINEMENT.

5. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAVE EMPHASIZED THEIR INTENTION TO TAKE ACTION TO CONTINUE THIS WORK WITHIN THEIR GOVERNMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SUPREME COMMITTEE IS OPENLY ANXIOUS TO SECURE AGREEMENT FOR FURTHER U.S. PARTICIPATION IN BOTH CONTINUATION OF ENERGY PLANNING EXERCISES AND IN TECHNICAL ENERGY PROJECTS. ABABA SUGGESTED THAT A DOE REP ATTEND "ENERGY CONFERENCES" BEING SPONSORED BY GOE ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY IN NOVEMBER 78 AND PARTICIPATE IN A PANEL ON RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT REPORT. AS NOTED PARA 3, LETTER FROM SULTAN TO SCHLESINGER WILL EMPHASIZE THIS POINT AND WILL CONTAIN AN ATTACHMENT WITH PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF GOE INTEREST.

6. COMMENT: AS NOTED, GOE AND PARTICULARLY MINELECTRICITY AND ENERGY PLEASED WITH ASSESSMENT AND HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF WORK OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. HAMID SAID THAT BEFORE REPORT WAS COMPLETED, HE WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED THAT SO MANY GAPS OR QUESTIONABLE ASSUMPTIONS EXISTED IN EGYPT'S ENERGY PLANNING PROCESS. THIS IS ONE POSSIBLE REASON HE WANTS TO BE SURE THAT REPORT IS NOT SEEN AS GOE "POLICY" DOCUMENT. SECOND REASON COULD BE INTERNAL BUREAUCRATICS TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF ANY "OFFICIAL" FINGER POINTING AT SPECIFIC AGENCIES. NONETHELESS, ALL GOE OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT ASSESSMENT IS BENEFICIAL AND WILL BE A USEFUL

PLANNING AND ANALYSIS TOOL, WHICH THEY INTEND TO USE TO
THIS END.

7. NOTE: WALID EL SHAFIE HAS MADE SUGGESTIONS AIMED AT
STRENGTHENING REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. MCFARREN CARRYING
THESE FOR CONSIDERATION IN WASH; CHANGES ACCEPTABLE TO USG
TO BE CABLED TO EMB TO PASS TO MINENERGY AND ELECTRICITY.
EILTS

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